

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, January 1. 1708.

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**A**ND what if you had a Court-Revolution now, and all your N<sup>o</sup> One's, and N<sup>o</sup> Two's, &c. brought in again? —Do you think, Gentlemen, you would do better things than have been done? Would you mend the Management, or marr it? Would you mend it our Way, or mend it, (*viz.*) make it worse, your own? Would a *Tory* Management beat the *French* more, and secure our Trade more, and discourage Tyranny more? Come, Gentlemen, let us go back with you to former Days, when your *High Party* had the Helm; was the War carry'd on better, the *French* better beaten, the Commerce better secur'd in the Days of your Management, than they are now?

You cry out of Mismanagements, and a *sinking Island*, a low, desperate Nation, and the Causes of our Misfortunes must be re-

moved; I would to GOD the Causes were removed, and were that to be done, it might be needful to examine, what are the true Causes of our Miscarriages, in which some Discoveries might be made to our Advantage, and the Spring of all our Miseries would be found to lie, where many People do not look for it.

But pray, Gentlemen *High Flyers*, were there no Mismanagements under your Government, under your Parties Management? Had we no Disasters, when your Darlings and Champions had the Machine in their Hands? Were all the Wheels kept in Motion regular and exact, when your great S—rs, tall M—s, &c. were State Ministers, your R—s Vice-Admirals, your G—s and M—s Admirals, and all was in your own Hands? Look back, pray, to those

those Times, how many *Blenbeims* and *Ramillies* did you fight, how many *Barcelonas* and *Turins* did you relieve? Pray, reckon them up.

Come, Gentlemen, let's come to an Account with you, had you no Coward Captains in the Fleet? Had you no free-booting Generals in your Army, that went out to plunder, not to fight, and that lost the Marks of their Gallantry in the Wine-sellers of Port St. Mary's? In whose Management was it that Monsieur *Pony* went away in our View with the Spoils of *Cartagena*? Who convoy'd our *Turkey* Fleet safe into the Hands of the *French*, and then run away to *Ireland*? Was our Trade better secur'd, our Ships less taken, our Secrets and Cabinets less betray'd to the *French*, in your Time than now? If it really was so, stand forth, Gentlemen, produce the Fore-skins of the *Philistines* which you slew, and let us see the Particulars, that we may acknowledge the Merit, and come with the more Readiness into the Scheme of your Re-establishing.

But if ye stand, like your Brethren, if we suffer'd equal Misfortunes in your Conduct, as we do now under a new, then, Gentlemen, I'll make this short Use of it—By the same Rule that these should be put out, by the same Rule you should not be put in, and this Argument, I am sure, will hold; for as you by your Miscarriages brought all the same Things upon us, and were turn'd out for it, as you deserv'd; and these Gentlemen, you quarrel at, have Miscarriages, and they are at your Motion to be turn'd out too; you are no fitter to come in, than they are to stay in; if Persons guilty of such Mismanagement are not fit to abide, Persons formerly guilty of the same, or worse, are not fit to be restored: It can never consist with common Politicks, to take in such as have been guilty of the very same Crimes, for which you pretend these should be turn'd out.

Now, it will be a perfect Test of the Honesty of these Gentlemen's Meaning, when we see them soliciting purely to have Miscarriages detected, and Authors punished, and so far from Partiality to their Party, that they should be content to be excepted as a Party, and should sollicite her Majesty

to trust still to her honesty, moderate *Williamite* Subjects; and if she does shift Hands, that is, Instruments, she may yet adhere to the honest Party, and carry on the Principle of Moderation, and the present Interest of Religion; Would they do this, it would endear them to honest Men, and convince the World, that their Design is just, that they act the true Patriots, and that Party-Interest is not at the Bottom of all their Precesses.

Again, if it were only Miscarriages they aim'd at, and not Parties, why do they not single out the Miscarriages, and match the Persons to them? —Why do they not speak the Person and the Crime, point them out, and impeach them, then the Guilt would appear, and the Guilty too——But the Ministry, the whole as a Body, indeed it is speaking plain, 'tis the whole Management they want to change; they point out no single Persons, they have no Eye upon this Mismanager or that, but the whole Body of the *Whiggish* Interest, as a Party, is the Design, and to restore their old *Tory*, *High-Flying* Managers to their Places.

Now, I think, I have made it clear, that whoever are turn'd out, these are not fit to be brought in; and so, Gentlemen *High-Flyers*, now I joy to issue with you; The present Ministry must be turn'd out, you say; well, suppose that were done any Way, the shortest Way, or how you please, for I will not dispute that with my Lord H—. But still by the same Rule your Party cannot come in; now if the present Instruments are to go out, but your Party are not to come in, would you but speak honestly, what would you say? I am sure, your Party would say—Nay, if it must be a *Whig* that must come in, let even those stay that are in; for it is not a Change of *Whigs*, but a Change from *Whigs* that we aim at.

And what shall we say now to these things; is it a Change of whole Parties we are to look for? Pray then, let us take a View of the Persons, in whose Ministry all the Affairs of this Nation would then be entrusted; and not to name Names, let us take the general Character from their Proceeding in the Country, for by their Works ye shall know them.

First,



*First*, You must have a Set of those who declar'd themselves against the Union, and have since submitted to it, but as a meer Force—That call'd it a lousie Bargain, and took all Occasions to disturb and prevent it, lest we should not be able to make a Breach with our Friends, and break it out into a War.

*Secondly*, We must have a Set of those blessed timorous Patriots, who in meer Concern for the Danger of the Church set themselves in Array against their Neighbours, and were always for keeping the People of *England* in Fear of the Treaty, for Fear of the Church.

We must go back to our Tackers and Consolidators again, we must embrace our Persecutors and Disturbers again, we must return to *Coventry* Tumults and *Deventry* Swearers again; all that Generation, that the Nation has so eminently spued out, and which she has found her self so easie in parting with; all these must come in again.

We must fight the *French* with *Jacobins* Generals, and our Secretaries of State must be such, as think it Matter of Conscience to stir up Subjects to recover their Liberty; that scruple sending Assistance to the *Commissars*, because 'tis arming Subjects against their Sovereign, so by consequence the same great Man must condemn the Revolution.

Blank Passes to *France* and from it, may then be obtain'd as easly as before; and when Spies are first sent over thither, Advertisement may be given of it Time enough to seize them, before they set Foot on Shore; then *France* may recover her Intelligence of our Affairs, and know our Motions again as usual; for Want of which she has been forced to take her Measures from us, not prescribe her Measures to us.

Occasional Bills may then be blessedly re-

vived, and if the House of Lords reject them, they may see, if they can carry on the War by themselves, and in a little time all this senseless ridiculous System of Succession, Union and Tolleration shall be unravelled, untwisted, and declared inconsistent with the Liberties and Laws of *England*.

These are some of the Consequences of a Change of Parties in *England*; and certainly the Gentlemen, who are for changing things, cannot think the Nation ripe for such a Turn; they cannot think, the present Establishments of Moderation, Liberty, Tolleration, Succession and Union, which have with so much Wisdom, such sedate Thoughts, such excellent Measures, such Difficulty, and such Length of Time, been brought about, will be so easly overturned, and therefore they ought to declare themselves on this Head.

Whether it is a removing of some Persons only, who they pretend are guilty of M. G. management, that they demand, or a Removal of Parties which stand in the Way of the Restoration of their wretched Politics?

If it be the Removal of Persons only, why do they not personally charge them, and bring them to Justice, for what Crimes they can lay upon them?

If it be not that, then it must be a Removal of Parties, as no Question it is; and if so, I must tell them, the Plot is blown, the Mine is sprung, and they are discover'd, the Snare is broke, and the Nation is escap'd; we are not to be drawn in after all this Blood and Treasure, to return to *Jacobinism* and *High-Flying* mad Men, which are the same thing; and they would do well to consider of it, before they go on to entangle themselves in so open an Attempt against their Country.

## MISCELLANEA.

I Went on with the Affair of the Independence of our Colonies in my last, and was showing, that the Colonies can never seek to shift Hands, and put themselves under the Protection of any foreign Power;

for that no Nation can offer them the Equivalent, to the Advantage they shall lose by parting from *England*, and I have mention'd the *Dutch*, and consider'd it.

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The *French* are the next; and here I shall not make Popery or *French* Power any Part of my Argument: I'll suppose nothing from National, Natural or Religious Aversions, that Principles and Customs have no Share in this Matter, but I confine myself to the meer Argument of civil Interest, and Advantages of Commerce, and to no other.

1. *France* cannot be supposed to offer *New England* the Advantages of the Timber-Trade, or Trade for Naval Stores, with the Offer of a Bounty for their Importation, at least not till you suppose them to have lost all their political Understanding, because they have Colonies of their own in the Bay of *St. Lawrence*, and all the Way up the mighty River of *Canada*, full of the same thing, and which merit the same Encouragement; and who, if they had it, would soon be too strong for their Neighbours; a Thought by the Way, which well consider'd, would quicken our Hands in raising the Colonies of *N. England*, &c. to a Posture that might secure them against the Danger of falling at one Time or other into their Hands; a thing not so impossible, as some may imagine, especially while *France* shall take proper Means to encrease, strengthen, and enlarge their Colonies, and we continue to use the like Diligence to discourage, weaken and abandon ours.

2. Would *France* do their Part to assist *N. England* by taking their Timber, &c. and give them suitable Bounties to make the Exportation practicable as before; yet *France*, whose Trade is small at Sea, and the Shipping few and mean, compar'd to *Britain*, could not have that Demand, for the Goods, could not take off the Quantity, and consequently would not answer the End.

3. Under this League with *France* or *Holland*, either the Encrease of People, which would be the Strength of *New England*, must be *French* or *Dutch*, and either might in Time be dangerous to themselves, which in the Case of *Britain* could not be.

4. *France* has no Islands to take off their Provisions; what is *Martinico*, and a Piece of *St. Christophers*, or their little Settle-

ments in the Gulph of *Florida*, and the Isles of *Hispaniola* or *Cuba*, they would be nothing towards a Consumption of the Growth of our Colonies on the Continent, and consequently under any of these Protectors they would be undone.

I think, it is needless to enter into the Case, as to *Spain* and *Portugal*, and if these already named are consider'd, the thing will soon be granted, that they cannot subsist or be assisted in an Independency on *England*, or a Subjection to any other Power; and if so, then my Argument is good, that the adding to the Power, Trade, Riches, and Numbers of People in our Colonies, is the best, if not the only Way effectually to secure them to us, and make them for ever our own.

There is but one Scruple, and that I mention'd in my last, viz. That our Islands can no more subsist without our Colonies, than our Colonies can subsist without the Islands.

'Tis true, the Islands, we possess in the *Western* Ocean, do depend upon our Colonies on the Continent for Provisions; but then two things answer their End.

First, We cannot suppose, all the Colonies on the Continent should league together in the Independency we are talking of:—And particularly *Carolina* and *Virginia* would never be in a Condition to do it, and the Supplies to the Islands from those Parts would soon encrease to a Sufficiency for their Supply.

But, Secondly, If they were all confederated in their breaking off from their *British* Masters, yet *Ireland* is a ready, a compleat, and a more than sufficient Supply; and if it were needful, I could enter into a Calculation of some Proportions, which perhaps might prove, they might be supply'd very near as low, one thing consider'd with another, as from the Continent of *America*; but I hope, this Matter is clear enough without it, and I do not care to tyre you with Calculations.

The Methods how, and Advantages of improving our Colonies, remain to be farther discours'd of, as Opportunity shall offer.